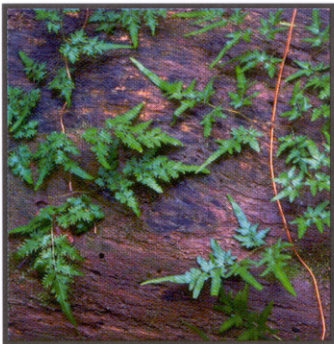


Japanese Climbing Fern*

Lygodium japonicum



Japanese climbing fern—adult



Japanese climbing fern—fronds



Japanese climbing fern—seedling

Plant: Fern, climbing and twining perennial vine up to 7 m (22 ft) long, forming mats and infestations. *Rhizome* slender, widely creeping, black and wiry.

Stem: Trailing, twining, or climbing, wiry vine, slender but difficult to break. Green to straw-colored to reddish.

Fronds (leaves): Opposite on vine, light green and compound, once or twice divided, varying in appearance according to the number of divisions with highly dissected leaves appearing lacy. Generally triangular in shape, 8–15 cm (3 1/8–6 in) long and 5–8 cm (2–3 1/8 in) wide.

Sporangia (fern flowers): Fertile fronds on upper part of blade, usually with smaller segments having finger-like projections around the margins, bearing sporangia in double rows on the under margins.

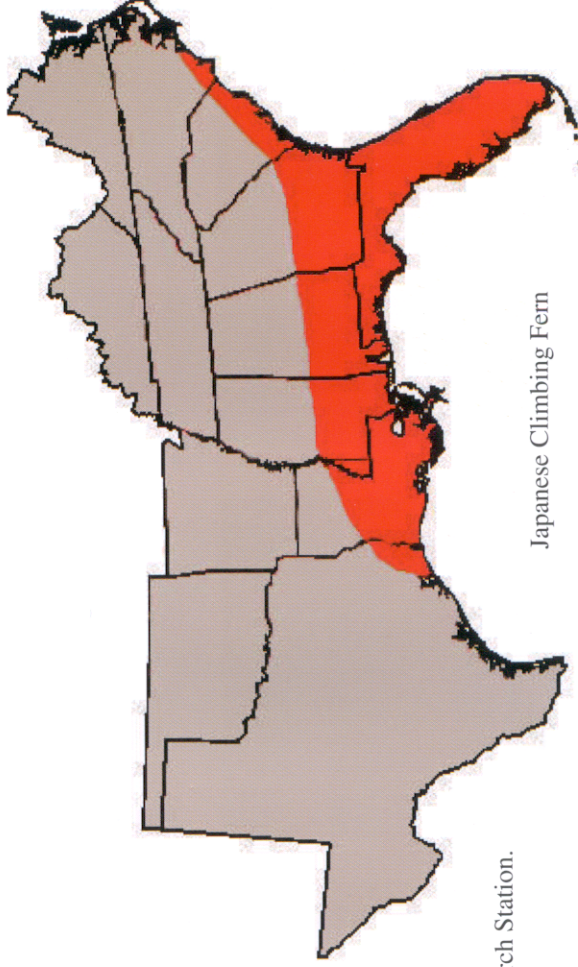
Fruit and Seeds: Tiny spores that are wind dispersed.

Range: Texas to Florida to North Carolina being more common in the coastal plain and scattered in the Piedmont.

Ecology: Spreads along highways and rights-of-way (prefers under and around bridges) from

where it invades open forests and stream margins. Scattered in occurrence, but can form infestation mats that can climb over shrubs and trees.

*Three similar species in Southeast with two being exotics.



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(Additional photo by Ted Bodner)

Japanese Climbing Fern